(b) The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad has conducted two studies on pesticides residues in food in 1989-90 and 1992-93. A total number of 238 samples were analysed to know the presence of orgnochlorine pesticide residues (DDT, BHC, Endosulfan etc.) in food viz. cereals, millets, pulses, milk, milk products, tea, coffee, fruit juices, cereal based ready-to-eat food, jam, jelly, ketchup etc. In majority of the samples the level of pesticide residues found was well within the prescribed limit.

(c) There are no epidemiological data to indicate that women are more vulnerable to pesticides.

The State Food (Health) Authorities have been advised to draw random samples of all articles. of food for analysing them to know the presence of pesticide residues beyond the prescribed limits and take necessary action against the offenders as provided in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules thereunder.

Meeting of Secretary General of IRCS with Ambassador of France

1673. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is an fact that Secretary General of the Indian:Red Cross Society had given an appointment for a meeting with Ambassador of France in India on 7th November, 1993 for receiving a cheque of Rs. 25 lakhs towards Earthquake relief;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at the appointed time the Secretary General was not present in his office and there was no message in the office in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Ambassador not finding the Secretary General left the premises without meeting any other officials; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) On account of the unavoidable circumstances, the cheque should not be received on 7.10.93. It was received on 11.10.93.

Who's report Regarding Spread of AIDS

1674. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report prepared by the World Health Organisation about preventing spread of AIDS;

(b) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The World Health Organisation has been publishing several reports about the preventive aspects of AIDS. The reports, inter-alia, stress on the need to prevent transmission of HIV through Sexual intercourse, blood and blood products or perinatally and underscore the necessity of reducing the social and economic impacts of the epidemic. The Government have taken up in hand a National Programme to control and prevent the transmission of HIV which take into account these concerns. The majors thrust areas of the programme comprise of creation of awareness, control of sexually transmitted diseases, blood safety and rational use of blood and Surveillance and clinical management of AIDS cases.